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THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1917

Drawn by Nina E. Allender

Soon the Sun Will Have to Smile

National Woman's Party

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OBJECT: TO SECURE AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION ENFRANCHISING WOMEN

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all women who, regarding woman suffrage as the foremost political issue of the day, will support it irrespective of the interests of any national political party.

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Notes of the Week

Victory in New England

THE Rhode Island legislature passed a presidential suffrage bill on April 17. Governor Beeckman has announced that he will sign it immediately.

The winning of a New England state for equal suffrage is the most striking signal yet given of the powerful advance women's enfranchisement has made in the last year. Rhode Island is a small state, but it has as much voice in the federal government as the great state of Oregon. There are about 180,000 women in it of voting age, a number slightly in excess of the number of men. It has five presidential electors, so that now 140 of the 531 members of the electoral college will be elected by women as well as by men. More than one-fourth of the House and more than one-third of the Senate will represent states where women vote.

The help this new gain for suffrage in war-time will give the federal amendment campaign is more than the help of stronger support for suffrage in Congress. The West is quicker brained than the East to throw off political lumber. A New England state carried for presidential suffrage will add powerful impetus in the East to the truth that the franchise is a federal question.

Municipal Suffrage in Ohio

THE Ohio Supreme Court has handed down its decision that charter cities have the right to give women municipal suffrage under the home rule clause of the state constitution. The case was decided for East Cleveland which included woman suffrage in its new charter by a large majority. Other cities will at once enfranchise their women for local government.

Ohio now has municipal and presidential suffrage.

The Pennsylvania Amendment

THE constitutional amendment for suffrage in Pennsylvania was defeated in the lower house of the legislature by a vote of 101 to 94 on April 17. The Philadelphia *North American* characterized the strangling of the amendment by the state liquor ring as "the most indecent legislative exhibition which even the Capitol of Pennsylvania has for some time been able to boast." It was declared by a member in debate that "all the paid liquor lobbyists of the state and nation" were there, and the chairman of the legislative committee of the state suffrage forces made the public statement that the number of these men at work was over 150.

Pennsylvania suffragists now plan to have introduced at once into the legislature a bill for presidential suffrage. They state that they will now for the first time take the offensive against the liquor interests and make the issue clear-cut between these opposing forces and their bill. They have hope for immediate victory in the simplification this change of direction brings the suffrage cause, while indignation is still high both within and without the legislature over the treatment given the amendment.

Getting a bill for a constitutional amendment for suffrage through the legislature is only the first step of an almost hopeless undertaking in a state like Pennsylvania. It is to be hoped that Pennsylvania women will win presidential suffrage and then put all the power of their national enfranchisement upon Congress.

The Illinois Referendum

ILLINOIS women have been working for the submission of a constitutional amendment for full suffrage in Illinois in the 1918 election. The bill was defeated in both houses last week in spite of suffrage planks in both party platforms. The roll-calls of Senate and House disclosed great differences between the promises and the votes of legislators, who are not responsible to Illinois women.

Suffragists in Illinois will now feel more certain than ever of the practicality of direct action on Congress for the federal amendment.

Legal Pedantry in Massachusetts

THE women of Massachusetts will not vote upon the new constitution to be offered the people of that state by a constitutional convention.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court has submitted to the legislature its decision that the legislature has no power to define the word "people" as meaning both men and women in the act providing for the convention and that it cannot amend the act or take other steps to allow women to vote.

War and Women

A BILL is now pending before the New York legislature giving the State Industrial Commission unlimited power during the war to suspend those provisions of the labor law relating to hours of work and the employment of women and children.

The New York State labor regulations, like the liberal labor laws in other states, were secured after years of effort and have been maintained with the greatest difficulty through repeated attacks upon them by the canners and other groups of employers. The Johnson bill in question, which would completely undermine the gains made, is backed by the state board in the face of protest from the Consumers' League, the Federation of Labor, the Women's Trade Union League, the Child Labor Committee and other organizations. The special objection made to it are:

That under no circumstances should children be included in the bill.

That investigation with public hearing should be required in the case of every suspension of labor regulations.

That each order suspending labor laws should state the maximum number of hours an employer may work his employees under the order.

This bill being rushed through the New York legislature is typical of the moves to be expected in every state from certain interests at this crisis. The harm such letting down of standards will work women and children is incalculable. The Council of National Defense, foreseeing this danger to labor under cover of war, has asked state legislatures to authorize suspension of labor laws only upon the express recommendation of that body. The case of New York State shows the weight of that request.

The government knows from European reports that have come to the United States Department of Labor the damage to health and morality, to say nothing of decreased efficiency, that follows long hours for women and the exploitation of children in factories. There is no doubt that equal suffrage states will be better able to maintain necessary safeguards for women and children than New York State. The only way the government adequately can protect women and children throughout the country is at once to pass the federal suffrage amendment.

Mutual Responsibility

THE women of American can do no greater work at this time than to raise their own vegetables, can their own fruit, prevent waste in their homes and give impulse and enthusiasm to the men of the land. If they do this they will be doing a good 5 per cent of the work of fighting the war to a finish."

Secretary of the Interior Lane has given this advice to women in regard to war service. He added a rather more competently modern note in the acknowledgement that victory cannot be won by the United States in war "unless our women free for use at the front as large a proportion of our food and labor as is possible by forethought, sacrifice and energy."

The women of this country do not need Secretary Lane to point out to them what every war requires of that part of the adult population not at the front fighting. It is obvious that if the United States sends a large army to Europe, women will have to take the places of soldiers to make munitions, keep the factories of all kinds running, help raise the food, and advance much further into the support of every kind of industry than the quick progress of women toward economic independence has already carried them.

What is remarkable about this message of Mr. Lane to the women of the United States is its lack of a sense of responsibility toward them and toward that deep instinct of social obligation in them which they are trying to establish and which can be properly recognized and used by the government only when they are made citizens equal with men.

Progressive Convention Supports Federal Suffrage

THE patriots of 1776 fought to establish the principle of "No taxation without representation." Our women shared in their burdens and privations, and have always stood shoulder to shoulder with the men in peace and war.

The right of suffrage should not be denied or abridged on account of **sex.**

We therefore demand the nation-wide enfranchisement of women, and favor a federal amendment to this effect.—*Plank of Progressive platform adopted at St. Louis, April* 14, 1917

WHEREAS, at a time when the United States is entering into an international war "for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government" it is most imperative that we first establish a democracy in our own country by giving political liberty to **women.**

Be it resolved that the chairman of this convention be instructed to request a committee consisting of representatives of all liberal groups to go to Washington to present to the President and the Congress of the United States a demand for the immediate submission of an amendment to the United States constitution enfranshising women.—*Resolution adopted by Progressive Convention, St. Louis, April* 14, 1917.

MEMBERS of the Progressive Party who met in convention in St. Louis, April 12, 13, and 14 are beyond a doubt determined to do all in their power to enfranchise the women of this country. This was proved not only by the spirit shown but by the action taken by the convention.

The plank in the platform demanding the passage of the federal amendment was unanimously adopted, and the resolution calling for the appointment of a committee to present this demand to the President and Congress was greeted with cheers from the floor of the convention. The resolution was proposed by Mr. J. A. H. Hopkins of New Jersey, whom chairman of the convention Matthew Hale of Boston immediately appointed chairman of the committee to go to Washington.

The other members of the committee who Chairman Hale announced would be requested to carry the message to the President and Congress are Ex-Governor David Walsh of Massachusetts, a Progressive Democrat; Dr. E. A. Rumely, editor of the New York *Evening Mail,* a Progressive Republican; Dr. Ira Landrith, Prohibitionist; Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor; John Spargo, Socialist; Miss Mabel Vernon, Secretary of the National Woman's Party.

It is significant that this progressive action took place in the very room in the Planter's Hotel in which the platform committee of the Democratic convention conducted their session last June when the representatives of the Woman's Party patiently waited all night outside the door vainly hoping that the Democratic Party might stand for democracy. The Progressive Party, now when it is reorganizing with new hope and renewed determination, has as the first words of its platform, "We demand—A new Democracy which will represent all the people." This time the representatives of the Woman's Party did not stand outside the door, but were invited within to take a part in the councils as to how liberalism may be established in this country.

IT was agreed at the convention to form a "League of Liberals," composed of independents of all parties working together to bring about progressive legislation. Through the representatives of the Prohibition Party present at the convention a combination of the Progressives and the Prohibitionists for the congressional campaign of 1918 is practically assured. The slogan "Forty Congressmen in 1918" was adopted. The plan is to wage a campaign in forty congressional districts for the election of men who are pledged to the progressive measures for which the "League of Liberals" stands and by thus controlling the balance of power in Congress force legislation putting these measures into effect. In the program of the League outlined at the convention are national prohibition and national woman suffrage. An urgent invitation to join this league was extended to the National Woman's Party, and at the morning session on Friday a committee of three Progressives was appointed by the chair to confer with the representative of the Woman's Party present at the convention, Miss Mabel Vernon. In the report made to the convention after the conference Mr. John Taylor of New York, chairman of the conference committee, said:

"Your committee, appointed to confer with the representative of the Woman's Party, has the following report to make:

"While appreciating the honor conferred upon the Woman's Party by an invitation to ally itself with a league working for progressive legislation, Miss Mabel Vernon, Secretary of the Woman's Party and its representative at this convention, declared that at this time the National Woman's Party has but one plank in its platform—for which it is committed to work without deviation—namely: the national enfranchisement of women.

"In so far as the League of Liberals is devoted to establishing full democracy in this country—by procuring the passage of a national suffrage amendment—the National Woman's Party is prepared to give the fullest co-operation, and would deem it an honor and a privilege to have representatives at any conferences of the proposed League of Liberals at which work for the national enfranchisement of women would be discussed.

"In case the national suffrage amendment has not been submitted before the fall of 1918, the National Woman's Party would then appreciate an invitation to enter into a conference with the Progressive League concerning the 1918 congressional elections."

RARE appreciation of the policy of the Woman's Party and the struggle of women for their enfranchisement was shown by the delegates on Saturday morning when Miss Vernon was asked to speak to the convention. There was applause when she declared that the women of the Woman's Party demand the establishment of a democracy at home when our nation deems democracy so precious that it enters into an international war to establish it in other lands. Again there was applause when she told that every time the flags fly on Senate and on House in Washington the Woman's Party banner is also flying, held by the suffrage sentinels, asking—"How long must American women wait for liberty?"

"We demand action now," said Miss Vernon in conclusion," and we are looking to you as men who believe in democracy to help us get it."

THERE was some disappointment among members of the convention that the Woman's Party decided against allying itself with the League of Liberals. But, notwithstanding, the finest spirit toward the Woman's Party was displayed and unusual appreciation of its fight for woman's freedom shown. An evidence of this was the gay little incident which occurred when Miss Vernon left the train at Indianapolis. On the train on which she travelled some of the leaders who had been most prominent in the convention were returning East. They waited up until almost midnight to give the Woman's Party representative a good "send-off." When she stepped on the station platform they gathered round her, waved their hats in the air and gave three hearty cheers "For the National Woman's Party and the bravery of its stand."

Among the prominent leaders attending the convention were Matthew Hale of Boston, Chairman of the Convention; Frederick Chase of New York, Secretary of the Convention; J. A. H. Hopkins of New Jersey, Treasurer of the Convention; John Taylor of New York, Colonel John Ingersoll of Idaho, Victor Murdock of Kansas and John M. Parker of Louisiana.

First Suffrage State East of the Alleghanies

AS the entering wedge in the battle of the eastern states for political freedom, Rhode Island this week extended presidential suffrage to its women by an overwhelmingly favorable vote. The victory of a conservative New England state, after efforts for enfranchisement on the part of the women of Rhode Island that date back over a quarter of a century, lends new impetus to the march on Congress for the passage of the federal suffrage amendment. The first action taken by leaders in the campaign just concluded was to cooperate with the National Woman's Party in forming a branch in Rhode Island to work for the liberation of the women of the nation. Rhode Island's leverage is not inconsiderable; she brings to bear on the suffrage strength of the nation five electoral votes.

In the spirited debate over the bill in the Rhode Island legislature, which lasted four hours, Richard W. Jennings of Cranston took a broad view of the world-suffrage situation at this time and dwelt on the pioneer fight of Rhode Island women for the measure. "The passage of this act," he said, "will make our session noteworthy. This is not a new question. Rhode Island is the birth-place of Presidential suffrage for women. Years ago gracious women quietly lobbied for its success, and, as an act of courtesy, one house would smilingly pass it, knowing full well that it would find a quiet resting-place in a committee of the other body. We know today that the man in public life, the political party, who plays with this question is playing with fire."

Governor Beeckman, who had recommended the measure in his message, and who signed the bill with some ceremony, saw the national significance of this step forward in democracy made by the smallest state in the Union: "Our action is no more than a just recognition of the splendid work which women are doing in so many fields of activity all over the world. I am proud because this act places Rhode Island squarely in the progressive ranks as the first state east of the Alleghanies to extend suffrage to women."

Miss Elizabeth Upham Yates, honorary President of the Rhode Island Equal Suffrage Association, who has worked for many years for the presidential suffrage idea as a short-cut to the enfranchisement of women, said on the day of its passage: "I have labored for this bill for years, and what its passage means to me can only be known by those who have stood with the minority for justice and waited its hour. Victor Hugo said: 'Stronger than armies and navies or any material force is the power of an idea when its time has come'."

THE Rhode Island leaders, led by Mrs. Agnes M. Jencks, President of the Rhode Island Equal Suffrage Association, have planned to cooperate in the calling of a state conference for the formation of a branch of the National Woman's Party that immediate action may be brought to bear on Congress by Rhode Island for the passage of the federal suffrage amendment. Mrs. Jencks is a member of the National Advisory Council of the Woman's Party and has offered her home for the Rhode Island conference.

Mrs. Beeckman, the wife of Governor Beeckman, is also interested with Mrs. Jencks in forming a branch to work with the Woman's Party for the nation-wide enfranchisement of women. Miss Mildred Gilbert, a national organizer of the Woman's Party, is now in Rhode Island to assist in arrangements for the state conference of the Woman's Party, which will be held in Providence within the next two weeks with Miss Doris Stevens of New York, a member of the Executive Committee of the Woman's Party, as one of the speakers.

The National Woman's Party has watched with keenest interest the fight for Presidential suffrage in Rhode Island, because of the apparently hopeful situation in that state. In 1914, in response to an invitation from the state suffragists a national organizer, Miss Emily Perry, was sent from the National Woman's Party (then known as the Congressional Union) to Rhode Island, to assist in the campaign for Presidential suffrage. Miss Perry remained in Rhode Island for a month, speaking on one occasion before the state legislature in behalf of the bill.

The greatest enthusiasm was felt in Washington at National Headquarters over the Rhode Island victory and the prospect of added leverage in pushing for the suffrage amendment. Mrs. George T. Hendrie of Detroit, Michigan, an Advisory Council Member who had come to Washington to declare for "suffrage first" at this time by standing as a suffrage sentinel at the White House, expressed her enthusiasm by contributing one hundred dollars to start the organization of the Rhode Island branch of the National Woman's Party.

"Democracy Should Begin at Home"

THE eighteenth was gala day on the picket line. Rumors were abroad that the Hon. Arthur Balfour and his party on behalf of democracy were to call in conference at the White House. Thirty-two pickets with their crocus-colored banners, purple, white and gold that shone in the spring sunshine, bright as a mediaeval, cavalcade, stood by the iron pickets.

Miss Jane Cooper was there. She had risen early, though it was her matinee day as leading lady with David Warfield in *The Music Master,* to take her place in the line. She was full of stories of the English suffragists whom she had known before the war, and reminded her neighbor pickets that Mr. Balfour in the old days used to wear a bunch of violets as boutonniere when he came out of Parliament to show to the waiting suffragettes that he was with them and wore their colors.

Mme. Cecile Sartoris and Countess d'Oliveria drove by, the two women from France who are in America arranging a fund for the restoration of the war-stricken monuments of northern France. "How beautiful!" Mme. Sartoris drew in her breath as her motor came up the avenue, and the brilliant emblems of the freedom of women drew her eye. "What do they mean?" she asked. And in the afternoon she and Countess d'Oliveria came to pay the respects of French women working also for suffrage to Miss Paul and Miss Younger at Cameron House.

All day as the pickets waited, a stream of Daughters of the Revolution, over thirteen hundred of them, passed on their way through the State, War and Navy Gate to their new Convention Building.

"Fancy," murmured a slim young picket from the West, as a scornful anti D. A. R. swept by, "fancy her being even the great-great-great-granddaughter of Revolution. Why she wears the entrenched look of a devotee of good King George."

At that moment two D. A. R.'s stopped to talk with Mrs. Helena Hill Weed, who carried her "How Long Must American Women Wait for Liberty?" like a crusader, with her Founders and Patriots medal upon her breast and her ladder of ancesters above her D. A. R. insignia. "I still love liberty," she said, and the Daughters of the Revolution congratulated her on her stand.

The morning wore on. Rumors here and there heralded the celebrated visitors. They did not come and it hardly mattered. Between Helena Hill Weed and Vivian Pierce a yellow banner bore a new message:

"We are fighting for the thing that has always lain nearest our hearts, Democracy, the right of those who submit to authority to take part in their government.—From President Wilson's War Message, April 2, 1917."

Men stopped and looked and read. They were hearing the war message of democracy with new ears and new hearts. One man read and walked on and came back and read again. He passed on to another banner which read, "Democracy should begin at home." And he went away nodding.

"I like the whole look of it," said some one passing, "the sweet gaudy gladness of the colors, the colors of people who really want something and who want it soon,—people who want justice and liberty, not some selfish treasure, but justice for women and for the race."

THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY AMENDMENT

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of the said legislatures, shall be valid as part of said Constitution, namely:

"ARTICLE—SEC. 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"SEC. 2. Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article."

THE AMENDMENT IN THE SIXTY-FIFTH CONGRESS

Introduced

In the Senate, on April 4, 1917, by Senators Thompson, Owen, Jones and Shafroth.
In the House, on April 2, 1917 by Representatives Raker, Rankin, Mondell, Keating and Hayden.

Referred

In the Senate, to the Committee on Woman Suffrage.
In the House, to the Judiciary Committee.

HISTORY OF THE AMENDMENT

Drafted

In its present form, by Susan B. Anthony in 1875.

First Introduced

January 10, 1878, by Hon. A. A. Sargent, in the Senate.

Reported from Committee

In the Senate

1878, Adverse majority.
1879, Favorable minority.
1882, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1884, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1886, Favorable majority.
1890, Favorable majority.
1892, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1896, Adverse majority.
1913, Favorable majority.
1914, Favorable majority.
1916, Favorable majority.

In the House

1883, Favorable majority.
1884, Adverse majority, favorabe minority.
1886, Favorable minority.
1890, Favorable majority.
1894, Adverse majority.
1914, Without recommendation.
1916. Without recommendation.

Voted Upon

In the Senate

January 25, 1887. Yeas 16, nays 34. Absent 26 (of whom 4 were announced as for and 2 against).
March 19, 1914. Yeas 35, nays 34, failing by 11 of the necessary two-thirds vote.

In the House

January 12, 1915. Yeas 174, nays 204, failing by 78 of the necessary two-thirds vote.

The Suffragist

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War and the Suffrage Campaign

NOW that the United States is actually involved in war we are face to face with the question, which we considered when war was rumored, as to what position we shall take, as an organization, in this situation.

Our membership is made up of women who have banded together to secure political freedom for women. We are united on no other subject. Some will offer passive resistance to the war. Some are devoted supporters of a vigor- our military policy. Between these every shade of opinion is represented. Each is loyal to the ideals which she holds for her country. With the character of these various ideals the National Woman's Party has nothing to do. It is concerned only with the effort to obtain for women the opportunity to give effective expression, through political power, to their ideals, whatever they may be.

In our national convention in March, our members, though differing widely on the duty of the individual in war, were unanimous in voting that in event of war the National Woman's Party, as an organization, should continue to work for political liberty for women and for that alone, believing, as the convention resolution stated, that in so doing the organization "serves the highest interest of the country." Throughout the convention there was no dissenting note in the opinion that all service which individuals wish to give to war or peace should be given through organizations for such purposes, and not through the Woman's Party, a body created, according to its constitution, for but one purpose—"to secure an amendment to the United States Constitution enfranchising women."

This then holds as the policy of the Woman's Party, whatever turn public events may take.

Never was there greater need of work for internal freedom in this country. At the very moment when democracy is increasing among nations in the throes of war, women in the United States are told that attempts at electoral reforms are out of place until war is over. The Democrats have decided in caucus that only war measures shall be included in their legislative program and have announced that they will take up no new subjects unless the President considers them of value for war purposes. Suffrage has not yet been included under this head. One member of Congress stated the situation succinctly this week when he said, "Political freedom for women is more welcome and understood today in Russia than in the United States Congress."

When war broke out in Europe in 1914, the same attitude was displayed there toward movements for internal reform. After two and a half years of war, however, each great nation involved has come to realize that the solidarity necessary for success is increased by the participation of the people in political life. Steps toward electoral reforms have been taken in Russia, Great Britain, France, Germany, and Canada. In all but one of these countries the reforms include the representation of women.

Our government is urging various measures upon the country on the ground that we should profit by the lessons of the European war. We urge upon the government that it profit by the experience of European nations with regard to electoral reforms. No "war measure" that has been suggested would contribute more toward establishing unity in the country, than would the giving of suffrage to all the people. It will always be difficult to wage a war for democracy abroad while democracy is denied at home.

The Work of the Legislative Committee

THE first hearing of the National Woman's Party will be held next week, April 26, before the Woman Suffrage Committee of the Senate of which Senator Jones of New Mexico is chairman. The hearing will take place in the public hearing room in the Senate Office Building at 10. This is the second suffrage hearing of this session, since the National American Woman Suffrage Association hearing before the same committee was held this week. It is part of the general campaign to push for the passage of the federal suffrage amendment this session in connection with the war preparedness program.

At the Woman's Party hearing, with Miss Anne Martin, legislative chairman of the Party, presiding, the speakers will be Hon. Jeannette Rankin, Representative from Montana; Mrs. Charles Beard of New York, Miss Alice Carpenter of New York; and Mrs. Rheta Childe Dorr of New York. Mrs. Beard is the wife of Professor Beard of Columbia University and is herself a writer on political science. She is an authority on state constitutions in regard to suffrage amendments and has written valuable articles on that angle of the suffrage situation, on which she will speak. Mrs. Dorr is the author of "What Eight Million Women Want" and a student of labor conditions in regard to women. She will deal with the future of women in this country in the event of world-war.

THE New York legislative committee of the Woman's Party with great energy put the three New York Congressional candidates who aspired to succeed the late Representative Michael F. Conry on record as to their attitude on federal suffrage previous to the election held in New York, April 12. The candidates were John N. Boyle, Republican; Joseph D. Cannon, Socialist; and Thomas F. Smith, Democrat, who was elected.

Representative Smith was secretary of Tammany Hall and is considered by Democratic leaders its best equipped man. His attitude on federal suffrage was therefore important to the New York members of the Woman's Party. The deputation to Smith was led by Mrs. Clarence M. Smith, chairman of the New York committee. Mrs. Elijah Keehn, Mrs. Robert Adamson, Miss Marion May, Mrs. William M. Colt and Mrs. Thompson called on him at Tammany Hall. The women were received most cordially.

Mr. Smith thanked the women for the presentation of the facts, and admitted that he had thought little of the subject, but had always been inclined to believe that districts should themselves be able to decide what they want. He promised to think over the arguments and read the history of the suffrage amendment, after which he said he would be glad to reopen the subject with the national leaders of the Woman's Party in Washington.

WRITE to the members of the Suffrage Committee of the Senate and the Judiciary Committee of the House and urge them to give a favorable and immediate committee report on the national suffrage amendment.

Suffrage Committee of the Senate

Democrats

A. A. Jones, New Mexico, Chairman
Robert L. Owen, Oklahoma
Joseph E. Ransdell, Louisiana
Henry F. Hollis, New Hampshire
Ed. S. Johnson, South Dakota

Republicans

Wesley L. Jones, Washington
Knute Nelson, Minnesota
Albert B. Cummins, Iowa
Hiram W. Johnson, California

Judiciary Committee of the House

Democrats

Edwin Y. Webb, North Carolina, Chairman
Charles C. Carlin, Virginia
Robert Y. Thomas, Jr., Kentucky
William L. Igoe, Missouri
Warren Gard, Ohio
Richard S. Whaley, South Carolina
Thaddeus H. Caraway, Arkansas
M. M. Neely, West Virginia
Henry J. Steele, Pennsylvania
J. Randall Walker, Georgia
Hatton W. Sumners, Texas
Joseph V. Flynn, New York

Republicans

Andrew J. Volstead, Minnesota
John M. Nelson, Wisconsin
Dick T. Morgan, Oklahoma
George S. Graham, Pennsylvania
Walter M. Chandler, New York
Leonidas C. Dyer, Missouri
Joseph Walsh, Massachusetts
Charles F. Reavis, Nebraska
Walter W. Magee, New York

Representative Smith did not have a chance to forget the Woman's Party. The first greeting which reached him in the National Capitol when he came to take his seat this week was a basket of spring flowers tied with the purple, white and gold tri-colors of the Party, which had been sent by the New York and District members of the Woman's Party as a reminder of his pledge of reconsideration.

MISS MARIE ERNST KENNEDY, state chairman of the Pennsylvania branch of the National Woman's Party led a delegation this week to Senator Penrose. She explained to the Pennsylvania Senator just how eager the women of the United States are to be given the franchise at this time when Congress will be called upon to make such grave decisions, decisions in which women will have to bear their full share.

The women from the National Woman's Party in the delegation were: Mrs. Harry Lowenburg, Miss Harriet W. Dulles, Miss Sarah Graham Tompkins, Dr. Sarah H. Lockrey, Mrs. Mary R. Sullivan, Mrs. Henry Justice, Mrs. Charles Z. Klauder, Miss Elizabeth Elder, Mrs. William Albert Wood and Mrs. M. C. Dowell. The Equal Franchise League which was also represented in the deputation was led by Miss Mary Ingham.

Senator Penrose listened attentively to the delegation and promised to give his attention to the subject though he felt, he said, some reluctance to take the matter out of the hands of the states. Since Senator Penrose paired in favor of the national amendment when the vote was taken in the Senate in 1914 his constituents are hopeful of his continued support in the present Congress.

THE members of the lobby committee at Washington have completed a poll of all the new members, and have again visited all former members of both houses who were opposed or non-committal. The results of this first poll show a very great increase in strength even over that existing at the adjournment of Congress on the fourth of March.

During the week three members of the Michigan branch of the National Woman's Party, Mrs. Paul Reyneau, state secretary; Mrs. George Hendrie, member of the National Advisory Council, and Mrs. F. C. Aldenger, state treasurer, came from Detroit to visit the Michigan delegation. Before leaving Detroit, Mrs. Hendrie, accompanied by Mrs. Nelson Whittemore, state chairman of the National Woman's Party, visited the Governor of Michigan and obtained from him the promise to sign the presidential suffrage bill if passed by the legislature. With the assurance of the probable passage of the measure in Michigan they were able to make a particularly strong appeal to the members of Congress from their state.

The Woman's Party Advance in the South

THE Southern campaign of the Woman's Party progresses. Another state, South Carolina, has added its strength to the great demand being made by women for the immediate liberation of American women. The South Carolina branch of the National Woman's Party was formed at a conference held at the Charleston Hotel, Charleston, on April 11.

For a week Miss Doris Stevens, a member of the executive committee of the Party, and Miss Beulah Amidon, national organizer, maintained headquarters in the lobby of the Charleston Hotel where the great "demand banner" of the Woman's Party and the conference announcement, decorated with tricolored flags, attracted much attention. Charleston has never seen so brisk and vivid a campaign as that just preceding the state organization conference. An original suffrage poster, the work of Miss Anita Pollitzer, a young local artist, called dramatic attention to the fact that Russia and England are enfranchising their women, leaving many million American women still political slaves.

From these headquarters, which overflowed the lobby finally and occupied a writing-room, volunteer suffrage enthusiasts sent out three thousand announcements of the conference through the state and aroused much latent suffrage sentiment in the districts of Congressmen Whaley, Byrnes, Dominick, Nicholls, Finley, Ragsdale and Lever.

Mayor Hyde gave special permission to the local representatives of the Woman's Party to hold street meetings during conference week, and Miss Beulah Amidon gave talks on the national suffrage work in Washington, including stories of lobbying, of picketing and of the various suffrage deputations to the President.

MRS. JOHN WRAGG as chairman of arrangements took charge of the details of the luncheon which preceded the conference proper, in the banquet room of the Charleston Hotel. Purple, white and gold banners and bowls of daffodils, white marsh lilies and wistaria formed the decorations and gave the room an air of spring loveliness. Mrs. Robert Gibbes Thomas of the Citadel, a member of the National Advisory Council, presided, with Mrs. E. W. Durant, Jr., as toastmistress.

Mrs. Durant said that she felt the time had come when women must not only believe in suffrage, but must do something to back up their beliefs. "I was born a suffragist," she said whimsically—"and I believe they are born, not made,—the real ones. The real suffragists know that the right to vote will mean spiritual as well as actual independence for women."

Dr. Clifton Merritt Gray, pastor of the Unitarian Church, made a vigorous appeal for the enfranchisement of women through the federal suffrage amendment to the constitution. "Precedent never lifted humanity to a higher sphere," he declared. "If I bump my head on the rafters every time I go into my room, I am a fool if I don't raise my ceiling. If a constitution is not big enough for a growing, developing age, we must stretch it. If it won't stretch we will have to get a new constitution. Men's minds in this matter of suffrage for women have followed meandering paths as a matter of habit. Suffrage for women is showing us short cuts to good citizenship. We need women now in this government. Let us get them as soon as possible."

Mrs. E. W. Durant, Jr.
Chairman South Carolina Branch

Miss Beulah Amidon of North Dakota outlined the growth of the suffrage amendment in this country and told of the part women's votes played in the last campaign. Miss Susan Frost of Charleston, one of the first workers for suffrage in her state, President of the Charleston Equal Suffrage League and a member of the National Advisory Council of the Woman's Party, pointed to the injustice which permits aliens and illiterates to govern educated American women. She paid glowing tribute to the work of the Woman's Party. "It is because of the Woman's Party, because I believe we will pass our amendment through the Sixty-fifth Congress, that I think this may be my last suffrage speech!"

Miss Stevens, in detailing the growth of the young Woman's Party, told of her lobbying experience in Washington and pointed her talk by detailing Representative Whaley's suffrage record. "We are not asking to superimpose our meager gifts upon others," she said finally. "We are merely demanding at this time a voice in the destiny of our country."

MEN as well as women joined in the discussion following in which the formation of the Woman's Party of South Carolina was proposed. Among the speakers were Mr. G. Wilson Harvey, Mr. Gray and Mr. W. B. Wilbur, all of whom declared in favor of sending a telegraphic resolution to the President and the members of the House and Senate from South Carolina demanding action this session on suffrage. This Resolution read as follows:

Whereas the principle of woman suffrage has been endorsed by all the national political parties, and whereas, England and Russia, in war and revolution are enfranchising their women, and whereas, the women of this nation have been called upon for service and sacrifice in an international war "for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government,"

Be it resolved, that we, members and friends of the South Carolina branch of the National Woman's Party, in conference assembled, demand the immediate passage of the Susan B. Anthony amendment, that a democracy may be established within our own borders.

An organization conference was held immediately following the program, at which a state constitution for the Woman's Party of South Carolina was adopted and a state committee elected. Mrs. E. W. Durant, Jr., of Charleston was chosen as state chairman. The other members were Mrs. Holliday Wear, Mrs. Barker Gummere, Mrs. W. P. Vaughn of Greenville, Mrs. G. Wilson Harvey, Miss Dorothy Porcher, Miss Anita Pollitzer, Miss Sade Cunningham, Miss Anita de Saussere and Miss Nina Ottolengen. Plans for a letter lobby, for state organization and for other federal amendment organization was planned immediately, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Durant.

Mrs. Durant, who is the daughter of General Porcher Miles, and a woman of keen intelligence, is the mother of eight charming children. Born in Louisiana, she has lived for many years in South Carolina. Until lately unaffiliated with suffrage organizations she says that it is the present national situation that has forced upon her as a mother the realization that women must demand the right to vote before another war drives men to the knowledge that they are "worthy" of that privilege.

The Nation-wide Campaign of the Woman's Party

Activity in the South

AS a part of its active campaign to place squarely behind the federal suffrage amendment the live demand of their constituents at home, the Woman's Party is putting concentrated effort into the organization of the Southern states where the suffrage opposition of the Democratic Party comes from. With the Democratic Party controlling the Judiciary and Rules Committees which in turn largely control the fate of federal suffrage, the Woman's Party is placing the record of their own Congressmen before Southern women and meeting with a dynamic response.

As part of this larger organization plan, which will later take notable speakers of the Woman's Party through the South, another state organization was this week added to the Southern group when a South Carolina conference was held in Charleston.

Conferences will speedily follow in Georgia and Florida. The Georgia conference will be held in Atlanta, April 21, bringing prominent suffragists from other cities of the state. Miss Beulah Amidon is in charge of the organization of this conference, at which Miss Elsie Hill, daughter of Congressman Hill, will be one of the speakers. The Florida conference is in charge of Mrs. E. St. Clair Thompson of North Carolina.

IN Tennessee the Woman's Party is becoming a suffrage power. The Knox County Branch in Knoxville is now holding one meeting a month at the Lawson McGhee Library, at which prominent women speakers will be heard. These meetings are being held under the chairmanship of Mrs. L. Crozier French, with Mrs. J. Walter Wright as secretary. At the last meeting of the organization a war resolution was unanimously adopted and forwarded to the President and Congress. "Be it resolved," reads this resolution which so well shows the temper of the new South—

"Be it resolved, that it is the sense of this meeting that because in the event of war the women of this country equally with the men will be called upon to carry their share of the burdens thereof that now is the time for Congress to take the first step toward the recognition by the government of this republic of the citizenship of women by the passage of the federal amendment looking to the removal of the disabilities of the women of the whole union."

MISS LUCY BRANHAM, Mrs. Robert Baker and Mrs. Donald R. Hooker, since the Just Government League's affiliation with the National Woman's Party, have been speaking on the campaign plans of the Party in every part of the state, materially increasing the membership of the Woman's Party.

Meetings have been held in Chestertown, Churchill, Elkton, Baltimore, Westminster and Annapolis during the past weeks, with Mrs. Minnie E. Brooke and Mrs. W. Thompson Burch among the speakers from Washington. Mrs. Lewis Wood of Chestertown, who has been an active suffrage worker also in both Illinois and Ohio, has been elected chairman of the Chestertown Branch, and is organizing committees for active co-operation with the national headquarters in Washington.

In the Middle West

THE Woman's Party in Missouri made good use of the time Miss Mabel Vernon could spare from the sessions of the Progressive Convention to which she had gone as the official representative of the Woman's Party. She described the work of the Woman's Party in Washington at a luncheon arranged by Mrs. Edith Barriger, state chairman, at the Mercantile Club in St. Louis. The same week, with Mrs. Hannah Skeffington, wife of the Irish martyr, Miss Vernon spoke at the Town Club of St. Louis. Mrs. Skeffington told of the work of her husband as editor and suffrage leader in Ireland and urged the women of America to see to it that the world democracy for which we must fight begins at home. Miss Vernon outlined the present status of the battle for the federal amendment.

Miss Vernon is now holding a series of meetings in Indiana which are bringing Indiana suffragists in large numbers into work for the federal suffrage amendment. The Equal Franchise League of New Castle joined the Woman's Party as a body this week for cooperation with the workers for national suffrage in Washington. An overflow meeting was held at the Court House in the same town. With Miss Eleanor Barker, state chairman of the Woman's Party in Indiana, several towns will be visited before the final mass meeting planned for Miss Vernon is held in Indianapolis.

Motor Tour Through Western States Planned by Woman's Party

FROM the West Miss Margery Ross and Miss Margaret Whittemore send plans for the spring conferences of the Woman's Party branches in those states. Miss Whittemore will journey through the coast states by auto, holding a series of district meetings prior to these conventions, while Miss Ross in the inland western states announces meetings to be held in Montana and Wyoming. Miss Whittemore held a conference with Woman's Party members of the Bay Cities, who decided to hold a state convention in San Francisco at the end of the month to discuss the relation of the present national situation to suffrage. Mrs. Fred W. Thompson was appointed chairman of arrangements at the luncheon which is to be a feature of the state conference. Mrs. Thompson gave a lively report of the national convention before the Tokolon Club in San Francisco.

DR. FRANCES M. LANE, a member of the National Advisory Council, and Miss Margery Gibson Ross were the speakers at a meeting of the Federated Clubs of Wyoming, held in Cody. With Dr. Lane presiding, the women of the state were urged to stand for the enfranchisement of women even in the face of a national crisis. Miss Ross described the Washington picket that is keeping before the country the fact that until women are enfranchised we have no right to teach democracy abroad.

At a recruiting meeting held in Cody the same evening under the auspices of the Army and Navy League the officers of the Woman's Party were urged to speak. They declared that the first step in preparedness was the enfranchisement of eastern women, which western women now had it in their power to force on the country. This speech was greeted with enthusiasm.

Woman's Party Activity in Massachusetts and Connecticut

THE Massachusetts state convention of the Woman's Party will be held on the twentieth of the month in the grill room of the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, with Mrs. Agnes H. Morey as state chairman presiding. District reports will be made by the following chairmen: Miss Emma F. Baxter, Miss Eleanor Calnan, Miss Margaret Kennedy, Mrs. Edward C. Jeffrey and Miss Olive Mills Belches. At the luncheon to follow the executive morning session the speakers will be Miss Anne Martin of Nevada, national vice-chairman; Miss Lucy Burns of New York, of the national executive committee; and two Boston newspaper editors who recognize the significance of the Woman's Party—Mr. Herbert N. Pinkham, Jr., of the Boston *Journal* and Mr. Edward Elwell Whiting of the Boston *Evening Record*.

The Connecticut branch convention has been set for June, with Miss Maud Younger, Dr. Allen McCurdy and Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles as the speakers. In the meantime the Connecticut branch is letter-lobbying those Congressmen who managed to escape to the extra session without giving their constituents a direct answer as to how they stood on the federal suffrage amendment.

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Comments of the Press

In Line with the Newer Democracies

HOW right and fitting it would be, before the war begins, to put all citizens on a footing of equal rights when we are so soon to be on a footing of equal service. It would unify the country, clear away misunderstandings and differences, and present the nation faced one way—to the future. Yesterday, Senator Jones, of Washington, presented a bill for a federal suffrage amendment in the upper house. Miss Rankin is pledged to present the Susan B. Anthony amendment to the House of Representatives at the first opportunity. With the question thus before Congress, with war measures and enabling legislation for better preparedness plans, it is hoped that it will receive the same wide and serious consideration.—*Richmond, Va., Evening Journal, April* 5.

Action from the Sixty-fifth Congress

THE opinion of the country has had plenty of time to mature on the suffrage question, and it now seems only fair to give to the nation, through the State Legislatures, an opportunity of returning a final verdict.—*The Christian Science Monitor.*

The Begining of the End

THE Indiana law granting to women the presidential franchise seems so important as an incident in the long battle for woman suffrage in this country that it can be fairly characterized as the beginning of the end. With the three great middle western states of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio allowing women to vote for president in addition to the 12 equal suffrage states beyond the Mississippi river, it is politically impossible for the eastern states to hold out very much longer.

It would not be surprising if, before the presidential election of 1920, several of the Atlantic coast states followed the example of Illinois, Ohio and Indiana; for, with 15 states now permitting women to vote for president, the political pressure for uniformity throughout the country in this important matter is sure to become a factor in the situation.

The women suffrage states now cast 135 electoral votes and the number must grow rather than diminish.—*Springfield, Mass., Republican.*

The First Congresswoman

WAR with Germany was not the only exciting episode of the opening special session of the Sixty-fifth Congress, which convened yesterday. "The Lady from Montana" took her official place, the first woman to sit in the American Congress. This is a notable event in world history. It is the beginning of a new order. The star of a perfect democracy rises in the east as war and what it stands for sinks in the west. The last war—and the first Congresswoman! It should inspire an epic. Soon, no doubt, a woman in Congress will be a matter of course; there is only one first time. In the next electoral college there will be one hundred and thirty-five delegates from equal suffrage states, which increases the likelihood of women representatives. This is a significant bit of statistics and should give voters of eastern and southern states food for thought. Miss Rankin's warning that if the eastern men did not hasten in granting equal suffrage, they would soon be governed by western women, was not just smart conversation; it was keen and sober thought. Women everywhere will be gratified that Miss Rankin received all the courtesies due an American woman. She was given almost an ovation in the speaker's room, which had been put at her disposal, was then escorted to her place in the center of the Republican group by Speaker Clark, and was instantly surrounded by eager members, congratulating her and greeting her with handshakes. Jeannette Rankin is more than a member of Congress. She stands for Woman. She will go down in history as the pioneer woman in the new state that is dawning for the world. Law needs woman's mercy to mitigate its justice; government needs a woman's small economies, her distaste of waste and disorder, her patience and sympathy with pain and wrong. The state needs her solicitude for the welfare of the child and the protection of motherhood. Woman, on the other hand, needs the dignity which responsibility engenders and the serenity of spirit which only fair play and justice can give. All this attends Miss Rankin as she takes her seat, invisible aids to keep her spirit strong and mind clear. Thoughts are deeds, so philosophers say. Let the kindliest thoughts go winging to Washington from women everywhere.—*Richmond, Va., Evening Journal, April* 3.

Motherhood Speaks

I WANT to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war." The first utterance of the first woman member of Congress struck a tragic and a prophetic note. What it cost Jeannette Rankin to speak the words that placed her in the ranks of men who sought to obstruct the policy of duty to the whole country no man in Congress probably knows.

In spite of her negative vote on the war measure, Miss Rankin cannot be classed with any group of "willful men." She was not thinking of her constituency, she had no doctrine theories to express, no private grudge to work out. In her broken cry, "I cannot vote for war," was voiced the love and yearning, the instinct for protection that has existed through millions of generations

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of mothers; the impulse to conserve child life that has kept the race alive.

There comes a time, of course, when the instinct to preserve one's own child must yield to the wisdom and justice of conserving the group, and when it comes most women, to their credit, steel their hearts to the necessity. With eyes bright and tearless, they see their beloved go forth to the work of war. Afterward there will be time for weeping, but the men must be fared forth bravely.

It will be said, no doubt, that Miss Rankin's pathetic last protest, before the bitter necessity for sacrifice actually arrives, is an argument against admitting more women to full citizenship and a participation in government.

But the exact contrary is true. We need that heart of motherhood in our counsels. We shall need more and more that instinct to preserve life, to protect childhood and the home. Our laws, because men have made them without consulting women, are too little concerned with the greatest business of all, the conservation of human life. As a symbol and a prophecy of what is to come when women and men together control the state, we are rather glad, since it did not affect the decision, that Miss Rankin could not vote for war.—*N. Y. Evening Mail, April* 6.

First Woman Enters Congress

THERE was a little hum in the House. Eyes were turned expectantly toward the doors. Representatives tried to be indifferent, but weren't. The galleries were astir, the women in them leaning eagerly forward. Then the door at the right of the Speaker's desk opened. A slim quiet figure stood there. In her hands was a bunch of flowers. The eyes were eager, but shy. She looked out at that roomful of men. For a moment she paused. Then the shoulders straightened. The eyes of four hundred men were fixed upon her. An appealing smile crept over her face. It said as plainly as words, "Please like me." Unconsciously the men surrendered. They arose as one. A hearty round of applause swept the House as the first woman Representative took her seat.

Jeannette Rankin had won. The men liked her. They flocked about, each eager to grasp the slim hand. For Jeannette Rankin is essentially a woman. She has brought a new element into Congress.

The House has taken on new color. It's the woman's spirit that has entered, intelligence of the heart as well as of the head. At first the men will be puzzled and ask "What does she mean?" And she will keep them guessing. For Jeannette Rankin has an enchanting mysterious smile. It is a Mona Lisa smile. Only an expert can fathom it. But if you're a woman you have the inside track. And the inside track of Jeannette Rankin is this: "I don't want to be a man; I want to be a woman. I want to represent women."

On the evening before the great ordeal I chatted with her for half an hour. It was in her office at the Capitol. The card on her door said: "The Honorable Jeannette Rankin." We talked of many things. She acknowledged a fluttering of the heart.

"It isn't just myself," she said, "it's having to represent all womankind. It seems a big responsibility."—*Madeline Doty in N. Y. Tribune, April* 3.

Educating Statesmen

SO that's accomplished, and another statesman has had an idea drilled into his head. But Mr. Asquith's education has come pretty high when you think of it. Women have died, have worked themselves sick, have spent their youth and their ardor for many bitter years to teach the Asquiths what they might so easily have known long ago. It has come high. It has deprived an empire of two generations of women's leadership. It has diverted into propaganda an energy that would have served England well. The conversion is now described as a triumph! A cynic would call it a monument to the density of statesmen.—*The New Republic, April* 7.

Southern Response

AS the blacksmith strikes a hot piece of metal on his anvil the sparks fly to remote parts, glowing and burning where they fall. At Washington a determined movement is being launched which will ultimately, if not immediately, result in the universal suffrage amendment. This is the stroke, the force of which is sending burning sparks to the ends of our country.—*The Hopewell, Virginia, Daily Press, March* 29.

Even the Sun

IN these progressive times, war for men seems to mean votes for women.—*New York Sun.*

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